

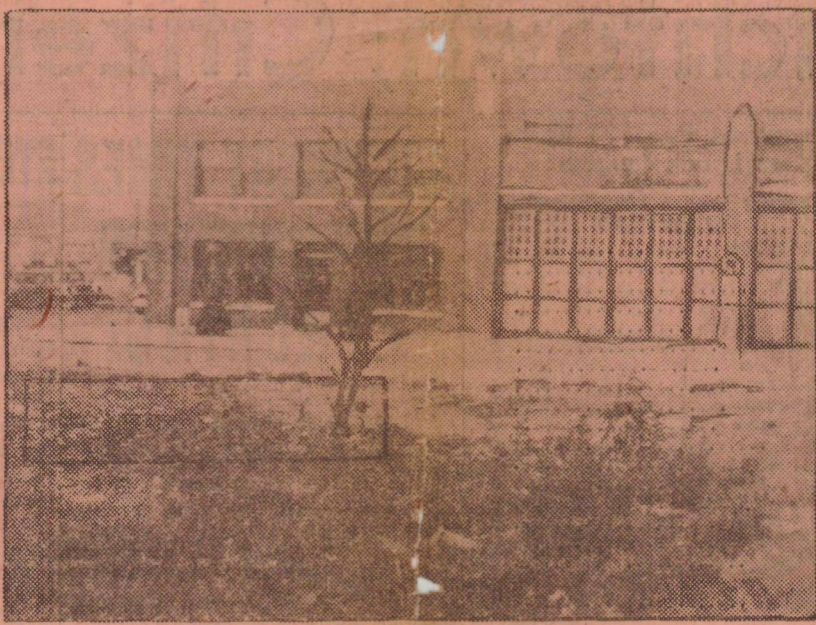
Views in Salisbury, Maryland's Lynch Town, where Blood-Thirsty Fiends Ran Amuck Last Week —Photos made Sunday morning by Afro Staff Photographer.



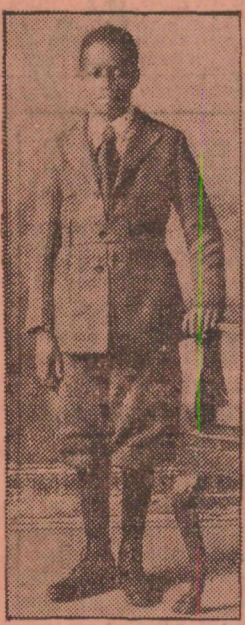
This photo shows the main street of Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, through which leading citizens dragged the body of 25-year-old Matthew Williams after hanging him in front of the court house. Arrow and dotted line show route over which the body was dragged.



A sample of the all-wooden rope used by the lynchers.



The vacant lot and tree where Matthew Williams was burned by fiends. In the background is the garage where they took 45 gallons of gas to pour on the dead man's body. This is where the sheriff told the mob he thought they had done enough.



Matthew Williams, 18 years ago, when he first went to work for the lumber man.



The court house in Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, located on the Main Street. Black arrow points to tree upon which Williams' body was hanged, suspended over sidewalk. White arrow points to exact limb on tree from which body was jerked up and down several times.

NOT TOYED WITH BODY 5 HRS.

LYNCHERS IN SALISBURY HAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Town's Comic Opera Police Made No Effort to Halt Orgy that Attracted 2,000.

TOWN'S MILITARY UNIT NOT CALLED

Police Carted Body Out of Town, Buried it, then Brought it Back.

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—Sober minded people of the Eastern Shore are hard put in their efforts to fathom the action of Lynch Town's comic opera police who carted the charred and mutilated body of Matthew Williams out into the woods after the lynching orgy and covered it with leaves and brush.

The actions of the police officials were pathetic throughout the whole barbarous demonstration.

When the mob first gathered at the hospital the authorities were on the scene, but their resistance was so feeble that the victim was dragged from his cot and carried to the scene of the hanging. Here police officials showed another spirit of valor after the youth had been hanged and after forcing their way through the crowd demanded that the body be cut down. With the hoofs and hoos of the milling horse racing in their ears the officials were again covered and made off without retrieving the body from the hoodlums.

Police Went Home

Whether they went home and went to sleep or not are matters of conjecture, but they did not reappear on the scene until about two hours later when the howling mob was burning the body.

Here they made another feeble effort to remove the body from the flames, but gruff voices ordered them from the scene of the burning. The brave guardians of the law again did good and another hour elapsed. When finally the body had been dragged up and down the street and finally strung up on a lamp post, the ire of the police was finally aroused. With a half dozen of the mob leaders still shouting it up around the burned body the police rushed to the scene and a quiet suburb is reported to have said: "You boys have been making hell of us long enough. We are going to take that body. You've had your fun now and you ought to be satisfied."

With everybody too drunk and tired to shoot them off, the body was cut down and the pallid officers had at last performed their duty. Fully five hours had elapsed between the attack on the hospital and recovery of the body by the officials. In the meantime a unit of state militia was in the city and could have been called upon a few minutes. A number of state police could have been detailed from

Continued on Page 3, Column 3

HANDWRITING AWARD

Winners on Page 22

Rules on Page 22

MARYLAND'S SHAME EDITION

THE AFRO-AMERICAN

PUBLISHED BY J. P. HARRIS

★ ★ Edition

CLEAR THE WEATHER COLDER

Friday and Saturday

See Also: 1:15 A.M. See Also: 4:47 P.M. Moon Rise: 5:15 A.M. Moon Phase: New. 2nd. First Quarter, 10th. Full, 20th. Last Quarter, 28th.

41st Year, No. 11

Entered in the postoffice at Baltimore, Md., as Second-Class Matter under Act of March 3, 1907

Week of Dec. 12, 1931

24 Pages

Prices: 6 CENTS IN CITY 7 CENTS IN STATE AND D. C. 10 CENTS ELSEWHERE

Mystery Death Believed to be Second Mob Victim

Fellow Worker of Lynched Man Says He Was Quiet, Industrious

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—In an exclusive interview given an AFRO reporter, Holland Walters, Delaware Street, a fellow worker of Matthew Williams, told Sunday of the working conditions at the Elliott Box and Crate Factory.

Walters said:

"I started to work at the factory about 15 years ago. I have been working there ever since. About nine or ten years ago, Matt, when he was a 'cure' boy, came to work at the factory. At that time we were earning about ten cents an hour. This salary was later increased to fifteen cents an hour following the good seasons."

Quiet, and Worked

"Williams was a very quiet fellow. He never engaged in any quarrels with the others at the plant nor did he associate with them. In fact, I can't recall anyone who wasn't a friend to the youth. He was content."

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2

EYE WITNESS TO CHURCH AS USUAL LYNCHING TELLS HOW MOB ACTED

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—A detailed account of the lynching of Matthew Williams here Friday night, by an eye witness, Howard A. Nelson, of South Philadelphia, as told to AFRO-AMERICAN reporters, Sunday. Mr. Nelson is fair of skin and may be colored or white as he pleases.

He arrived at Salisbury Thursday afternoon on a business trip. Early Friday I went to Princess Anne and returned late in the afternoon. I was standing talking to an acquaintance on Main Street about the killing of that man Elliott. When I noticed a group of men milling about the front of the town paper, the Salisbury Times. When I had finished my conversation, I went over to read the bulletin.

"I read the bulletin that was posted on the front of the building. It read:

Nigger Is Dead

"The nigger who murdered Mr. Elliott, a prominent citizen, has been reported as being dead."

Continued on Page 2, Col. 6

Philadelphia Woman Mourns Brother who was Lynched



MRS. OLIVIA SIMMONS only sister of Matthew Williams, Eastern Shore mob victim, who says yet that she does not believe her brother shot the lumber dealer.

Colored Strangers Said to Have Been Warned From Salisbury

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—Shortly after the outside communities and cities had been informed of the lynching of Matthew Williams, 21-year-old youth who was hanged in front of the court house, stay curious from a limb of a tree and then turned in a wild barbarous demonstration of the crime.

Own loaded with white persons entered the city Saturday morning and continued to view the places of interest. Many persons tried to get pieces of the rope that the youth was hanged with. Others clipped pieces from a tree. One white man was seen to pay a white boy to climb up and get a piece of the limb over which the rope had hung.

All day Saturday, and up until late evening.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 4

Aunt Sobs, Declares "Buddie" Mob Lynched Was a Good Boy

By LEVI H. JOLLEY

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—In an exclusive interview given to AFRO reporters, Mrs. Addie Black, 508 Isabelle Avenue, aunt of Matthew Williams, told of her nephew's life.

"I had a sister, Annie Hand, who was married to Harry Williams about 1902," she said. "They had two children, Matthew and Olivia. The latter who is now 27. Matthew was born in Norfolk, Va., on February 3, 1908. When the boy was four years old, his mother died from pneumonia."

"Matthew and his sister were brought to Salisbury to live with their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Hand. The boy started to school at the age of seven, which was a year after his father, Harry Williams, died."

"He was only able to attend school until he was fourteen years of age. He was compelled to stop school to assist my mother, Mrs. Hand, as his grandfather, who had been his guardian, died. The expense in sending him further in school was too much for his grandmother."

First Job

"The very first job that he got was at the box factory owned by Mr. Elliott. He worked there in the good season, and during the dull season he would attend the furnace and do various types of work for his employer and his son at their home. Both men trusted and liked 'Buddie' as he was never a boy who liked to run around. In fact, his whole idea was to work and save money. As far as I know, he never took a drink and smoked only on rare occasions. He had found a name in the community for his thrift. He seldom spent money for things other than the necessities of life. In fact, he was a fanatic for saving and tried to impress the benefit of thrift on all of his friends."

Never Mingled

"Poor Buddie never associated with the other boys his age because he felt that he was different. He was a quiet, reserved boy."

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1

SALISBURY MAYOR DOCTOR DESERTS HOME AFTER SEEING MOB

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—From militant hero of the Eastern Shore, Dr. A. B. Brown, leading physician of that section of Maryland, became over night its greatest culprit. Dr. Brown, being the most militant and outspoken champion of the rights of citizens of Salisbury, knowledge of what he knew through a meeting of leading citizens into a turmoil when his stand was interpreted by the poster then chief of police Saturday morning, as defiance Sunday, found the physician apparently changed after a mysterious trip that kept him out all night.

Dr. Brown was the physician who treated Williams, when he was first shot and carried him to the hospital. Dr. Brown is believed to have recognized mob leaders and it was thought that he would expose them even if it cost him his life. The militant bearing of the physician is said to have incurred the disapproval of the leading white citizens of the town and threats were heard against him and his household. Reports are current that influential associates were dispatched to his home to pacify the night was bitterly opposed. At day Saturday, and up until late evening.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 4

SHORE LYNCHERS MAY HAVE HAD SECOND VICTIM

Man Found with Skull Broken After Demonstration.

WAS MARKETING

Out on Night Colored were Told to Stay In

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—With the last for blood still running high in this mob-ridden community, the dead body of an unidentified man was found badly mutilated and slain, early Sunday morning.

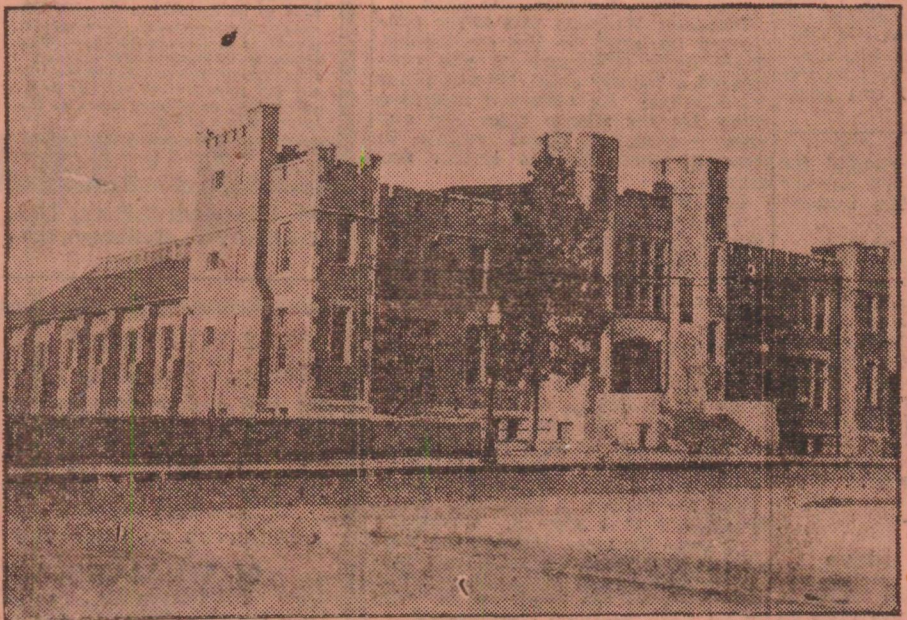
There are many mysterious elements surrounding the man's death. The identity and finding of the man's body at College Avenue and Railroad Streets has caused beliefs and rumors that the man was attacked and fatally injured by a group of the blood-thirsty whites who were out to get any unprotected colored person seen on the streets Saturday night.

It was learned that a telephone call was sent to police officials early Sunday morning stating that the body of a man could be found at the location which is near the dividing lines of the white and colored residential sections. The sender of the call refused to disclose his identity.

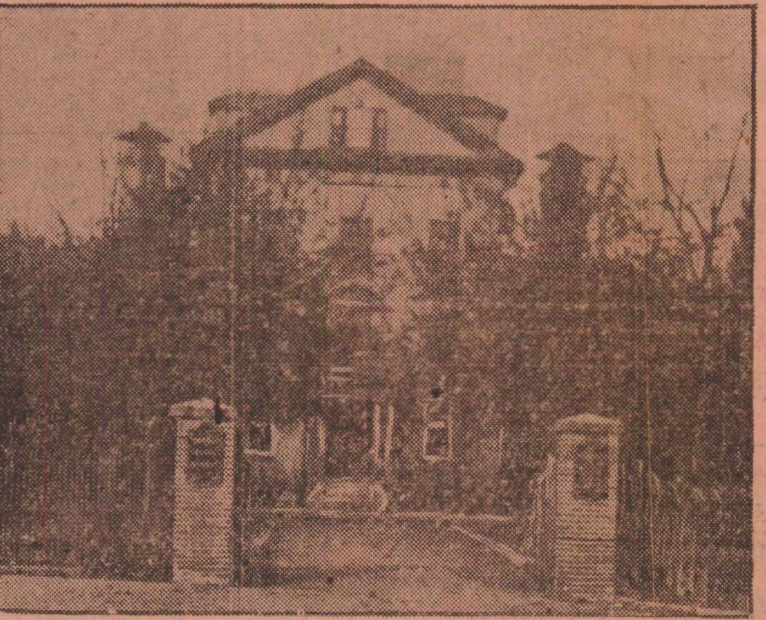
Examination of the body by AFRO-AMERICAN reporters showed that the man's skull was fractured on the right side and the entire left side of the head was a mass of blood. The right side of the head was a long, deep laceration. The man was wearing a light-colored shirt and a pair of trousers. A wound inflicted by a heavy sharp instrument. Ribs were broken. The man's arms were lifted as though to ward off a blow. No bullet wounds could be found on the body nor the head, which was covered with blood. The wound on the head was two inches deep and about six inches long.

Near the body was a half of a ham which was wrapped in brown paper, and a piece of bacon. It is believed that the man went to a store Saturday night after officials of the city stay off the street. It is believed that while he was marketing, he was set upon by a group of the whites who badly wounded him and carried

Continued on Page 2, Col. 3



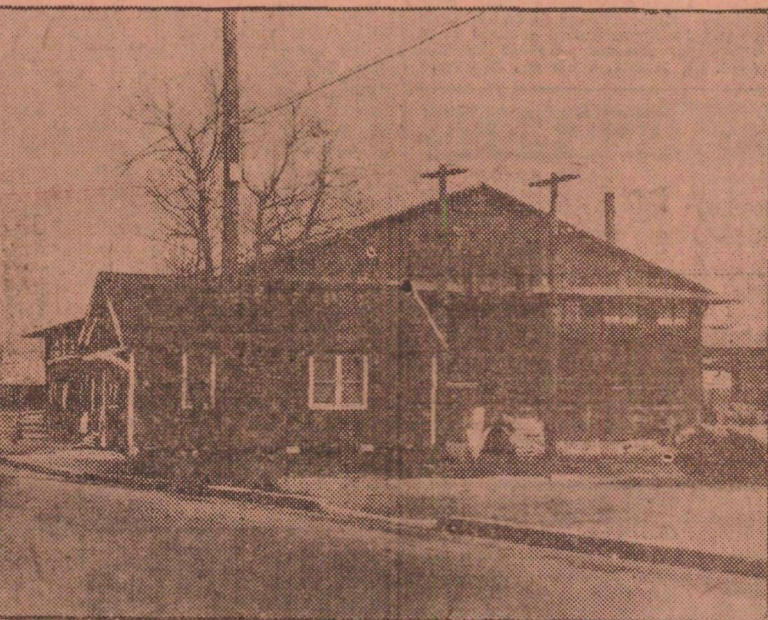
The white high school building in Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, which indicates there is an effort to create intelligence on the Eastern Shore. The general level of intelligence among whites is extremely low.



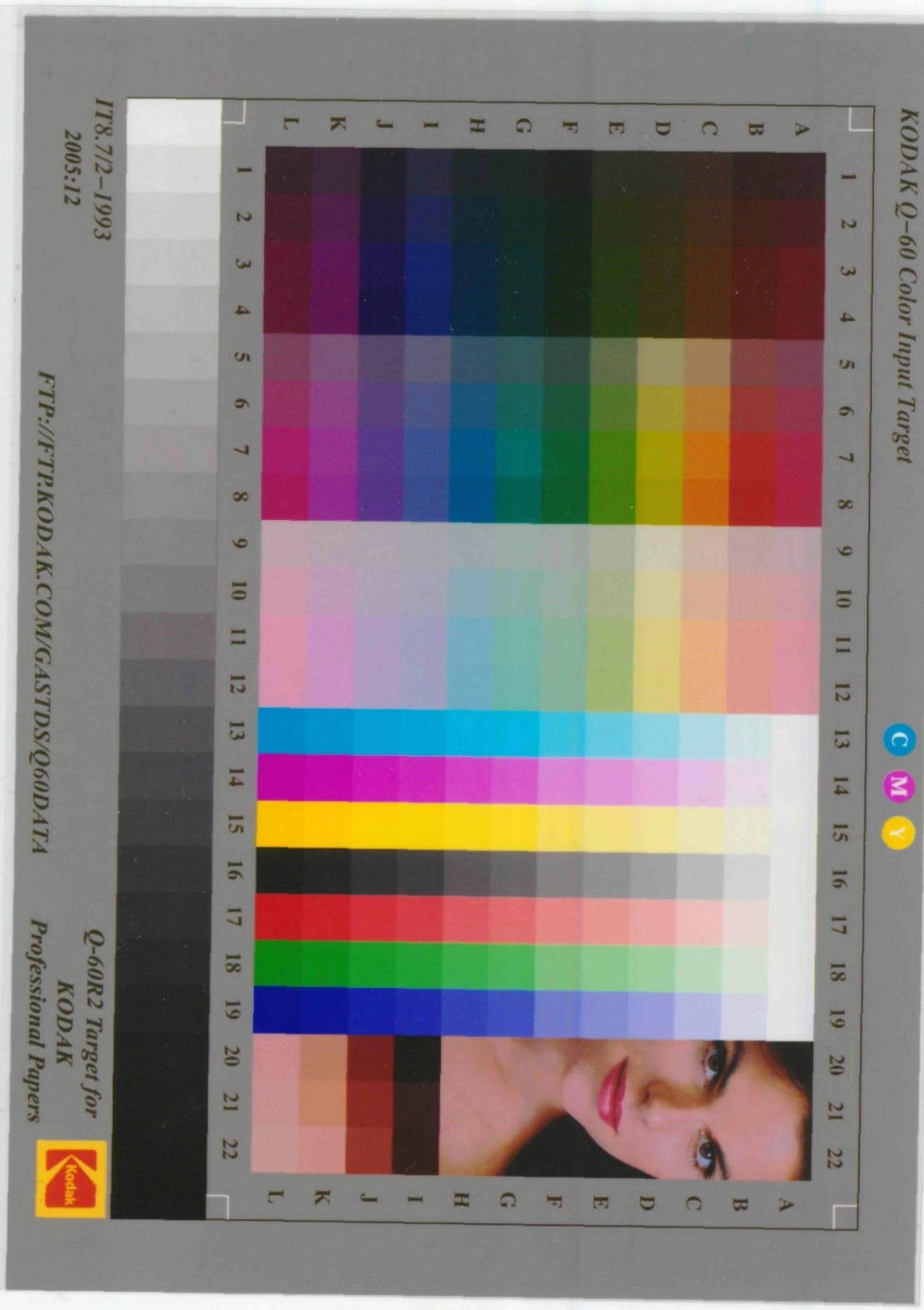
The hospital from the first story of which Williams was thrown to the mob, seriously wounded and clad only in night shirt. His head was swathed in bandages and he was unconscious.



Relatives of Williams: Left to right, front row—Mrs. Olivia Simmons, sister; Mrs. Thomas Black, aunt; Miss Viola Black, Thomas Black, Jr., and Thomas Black, uncle; back row—Miss Neila Tatten and Ger aldine Fur, cousins.

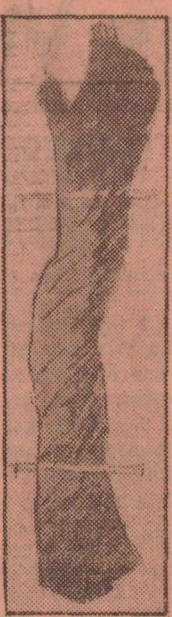


Office where Williams was reported to have shot lumber merchant, and himself. According to reports, he staggered outside, where he was shot a second time by the son of the lumber merchant.





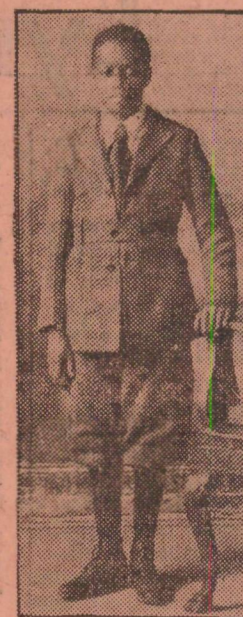
This photo shows the main street of Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, through which leading citizens dragged the body of 25-year-old Matthew Williams, after hanging him in front of the court house. Arrow and dotted line show route over which the body was dragged.



A sample of the oil-soaked rope used by the lynch mob.



The vacant lot and tree where Matthew Williams was burned by fiends. In the background is the garage where they stole 45 gallons of gas to pour on the dead man's body. This is where the sheriff told the mob he thought they had done enough.



Matthew Williams, 10 years ago, when he first went to work for the lumber man.



The court house in Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, located on the Main Street. Black arrow points to tree upon which Williams' body was hanged, suspended over sidewalk. White arrow points to exact limb on tree from which body was jerked up and down several times.

MOB TOYED WITH BODY 5 HRS.

LYNCHERS IN SALISBURY HAD RIGHT-OF-WAY

Town's Comic Opera Police Made No Effort to Halt Orgy that Attracted 2,000.

TOWN'S MILITARY UNIT NOT CALLED

Police Carted Body Out of Town, Buried it, then Brought it Back.

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—Sober minded people of the Eastern Shore are hard put in their efforts to fathom the action of Lynch Town's comic opera police who carried the charred and mutilated body of Matthew Williams out into the woods after the lynching orgy and covered it with leaves and burlap.

The actions of the police officials were pathetic throughout the whole barbarous demonstration.

When the mob first gathered at the hospital the authorities were on the scene, but their resistance was so feeble that the victim was dragged from his cot and carried to the scene of the hanging.

With the hoots and boos of the milling horde ringing in their ears the officials were again cowed and made off without retrieving the body from the hoodlums.

Police Went Home Whether they went home and went to sleep or not are matters of conjecture, but they did not reappear on the scene until about two hours later when the howling mob was burning the body.

Here they made another feeble effort to rescue the body from the flames, but their voices were drowned by the roar of the mob.

When finally the body had been dragged up and down the street and finally strung up on a lamp post, the ire of the police was finally aroused. With a half dozen of the mob leaders still whooping it up around the burned body the police rushed to the scene and a deputy sheriff is reported to have said: "You boys have been making fools of us long enough. We are going to take that body. You've had your fun now and you ought to be satisfied."

With everybody too drunk and tired to shoot them off, the body was cut down and the gallant officers had at last performed their duty. Fully five hours had elapsed between the attack on the hospital and recovery of the body by the officials. In the meantime a unit of state militia was in the city and could have been rounded up in a few minutes. A number of state police could have been called from

MARYLAND'S SHAME EDITION

THE AFRO AMERICAN

★★ Edition CLEAR THE WEATHER COLDER Friday and Saturday Sun Rises: 7:15 A.M.; Sun Sets: 4:47 P.M.; Moon Rises: 5:16 A.M.; Moon Sets: 11:05 P.M.; First Quarter, 16th; Full, 24th; Last Quarter, 31st.

41st Year, No. 11

Entered in the postoffice at Baltimore, Md., as Second-Class Matter under Act of March 3, 1879.

Week of Dec. 12, 1931

24 Pages

Prices: 6 CENTS PER COPY 7 CENTS IN STATE 10 CENTS ELSEWHERE

Mystery Death Believed to be Second Mob Victim

Fellow Worker of Lynched Man Says He Was Quiet, Industrious

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—In an exclusive interview given an AFRO reporter, Holland Walters, Delaware Street, a fellow worker of Matthew Williams, told Sunday of the working conditions at the Elliott Box and Crate Factory.

Walters said: "I started to work at the factory about 15 years ago. I have been working there ever since. About nine or ten years ago, Matt, when he was a mere boy, came to work at the factory. At that time we were earning about ten cents an hour. This salary was later increased to fifteen cents an hour following the good seasons.

Quiet, and Worked "Williams was a very quiet fellow. He never engaged in any quarrels with the others at the plant nor did he associate with them. In fact, I can't recall anyone who wasn't a friend to the youth. He was considered a good reliable worker. He knew what he was supposed to do and did it without someone watching him. He was faithful and conscientious while at work. He worked relentlessly from the starting whistle to the closing whistle.

"He was well liked by every one in the community who knew him. He was the type of person who always went alone. Never have I seen him with a group of young men or women other than at a baseball game. He had good common sense and oftentimes advised the young fellows who worked with him to save their money.

"His whole objective was to own his own home and probably a small automobile. He oftentimes told me that when he had gotten his home and a small farm, he would get married. He was very thrifty, and when the plant closed down several weeks ago for repairs, he was the only person in our section who seemed affected.

"He had saved his money. The day prior to his lynching he had \$56 in his pocket, and two books for loan."

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2

Philadelphia Woman Mourns Brother who was Lynched



MRS. OLIVIA SIMMONS only sister of Matthew Williams, Eastern Shore mob victim, who says yet that she does not believe her brother shot the lumber dealer.

Aunt Sobs, Declares "Buddie" Mob Lynched Was a Good Boy

By LEVI H. JOLLEY

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—In an exclusive interview given to AFRO reporters, Mrs. Addie Black, 503 Isabelle Avenue, aunt of Matthew Williams, told of her nephew's life.

"I had a sister, Annie Handy, who was married to Harry Williams about 1902," she said. "They had two children, Matthew and Olivia, the latter who is now 27. Matthew was born in Norfolk, Va., on February 8, 1908. When the boy was four years old, his mother died from pneumonia.

"Matthew and his sister were brought to Salisbury to live with their grandmother, Mrs. Mary Handy. The boy started to school at the age of seven, which was a year after his father, Harry Williams, died.

"He was only able to attend school until he was fourteen years of age. He was compelled to stop school to assist my mother, Mrs. Handy, as his grandfather, who had been his guardian, died. The expense in sending

him further in school was too much for his grandmother.

First Job

"The very first job that he got was at the box factory owned by Mr. Elliott. He worked there in the good season, and during the dull season he would attend the furnaces and do various types of work for his employer and his son at their homes. Both men trusted and liked 'Buddie' as most of his acquaintances called him.

"He was never a boy who liked to run around; in fact, his whole idea was to work and save money. As far as I know, he never took a drink, and smoked only on rare occasions. He had gained a name in the community for his thrift. He seldom spent money for things other than the necessities of life. In fact, he was a fanatic for saving and tried to impress the benefit of thrift on all of his friends.

Never Mingled

"Poor Buddie never associated with the other boys his age because he felt

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1

SHORE LYNCHERS MAY HAVE HAD SECOND VICTIM

Man Found with Skull Broken After Demonstration.

WAS MARKETING

Out on Night Colored were Told to Stay In.

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—With the lust for blood still running high in this mob-ridden community, the dead body of an unidentified man was found badly mutilated and slashed, early Sunday morning.

There are many mysterious elements surrounding the man's death. The identity and finding of the man's body at College Avenue and Railroad Streets has caused beliefs and rumors that the man was attacked and fatally injured by a group of the blood-thirsty whites who were out to get any unprotected colored person seen on the streets Saturday night.

It was learned that a telephone call was sent to police officials early Sunday morning stating that the body of a man could be found at the location which is near the dividing lines of the white and colored residential sections. The sender of the call refused to disclose his identity.

Examination of the body by AFRO-AMERICAN reporters showed that the man's skull was fractured on the right side and the entire left side of his face was also crushed. On the right side there was a long, deep gash along the temple region, similar to a wound inflicted by a heavy sharp instrument. Rigor mortis had set in, with the man's arms lifted as though to ward off a blow.

No bullet wounds could be found on the body nor the head, which was covered with blood. The wound on the head was two inches deep and about six inches long.

Near the body was a half of a ham which was wrapped in brown paper, and a piece of bacon. It is believed that the man went to a store Saturday night after officials of the city had advised all colored citizens to stay off the street. It is believed that while he was marketing, he was set upon by a group of the whites who badly wounded him and carried

EYE WITNESS TO LYNCHING TELLS HOW MOB ACTED

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—A detailed account of the lynching of Matthew Williams here Friday night, by an eye witness, Howard A. Nelson, of South Philadelphia, as told to AFRO-AMERICAN reporters, Sunday. Mr. Nelson is fair of skin and may be colored or white as he pleases.

"I arrived at Salisbury Thursday afternoon on a business trip. Early Friday I went to Princess Anne and returned late in the afternoon. I was standing talking to an acquaintance on Main Street about the killing of that man Elliott, when I noticed a group of men milling about the front of the town paper, the Salisbury Times. When I had finished my conversation, I went over to read the bulletin.

"I read the bulletin that was posted on the front of the building. It read: 'Nigger Is Dead

"The nigger who murdered Mr. Elliott, a prominent citizen, has been reported as being dead."

Continued on Page 2, Col. 6

CHURCH AS USUAL FOR GODFEARING SHO' LYNCHERS

By RALPH MATTHEWS

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—A Sabbath day in a mob-ridden town is not unlike a Sabbath day in any other locality. With the air still polluted with the stench of burning human flesh, the bells in the steeples of a score of churches peal out with mock solemnity, calling men to worship.

Down the streets of this hell-torn little Eastern Shore town, like so many beetles, they pour and wend their way slowly to take their customary places in pews to listen to the raspings of spineless clergymen who chant idealistic nothings about the joys of the hereafter, and say nothing about the atrocious crime in their own front yard—one of the worst that has defamed the State of Maryland in many years.

Down the streets they promenade. Past the scene where, not 48 hours previously, a defenseless, wounded, half-demented man had been dragged through the streets, strung from a limb of a tree and then burned in a wild barbarous demonstration.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 7

Colored Strangers Said to Have Been Warned From Salisbury

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—Shortly after the outside communities and cities had been informed of the lynching of Matthew Williams, 25-year-old youth who was hanged in front of the court house, ofay curiosity seekers began visiting the various spots of interest and gathering souvenirs of the crime.

Cars loaded with white persons entered the city Saturday morning and continued to view the places of interest. Many persons tried to get pieces of the rope that the youth was hanged with. Others chipped pieces from the tree. One white man was seen to pay a white boy to climb up and get a piece of the limb over which the rope had swung.

All day Saturday, and up until late

SALISBURY MAYOR ROUNDS UP THE TOWN'S LEADERS

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—With true Southern diplomacy, Mayor Wade H. Insley hit upon the age-old Dixie custom of getting the colored leaders of the city "in line" immediately following the lynching of Matthew Williams by a mob, Friday.

After reports reached the city hall that the respectable element was infuriated over the outbreak, the mayor called James H. Stewart, leading undertaker of the city and political leader and instructed him to round up a committee of leading citizens and meet at the city hall at 1 p.m.

A group of 15 responded to the call and a formal discussion of the happening of the previous night followed.

The citizens' committee, which was composed of doctors, ministers and business men, urged that ample protection be provided for the families of colored people and that a relentless investigation be waged by the city authorities.

The suggestion of Mayor Insley that colored people stay off the streets on Saturday night and that closed business places be closed for the night was bitterly opposed, and

DOCTOR DESERTS HOME AFTER SEEING MOB

SALISBURY, (Lynch-town) Md.—From militant hero of the Eastern Shore, Dr. A. B. Brown, leading physician of that section of Maryland, became over night its greatest enigma.

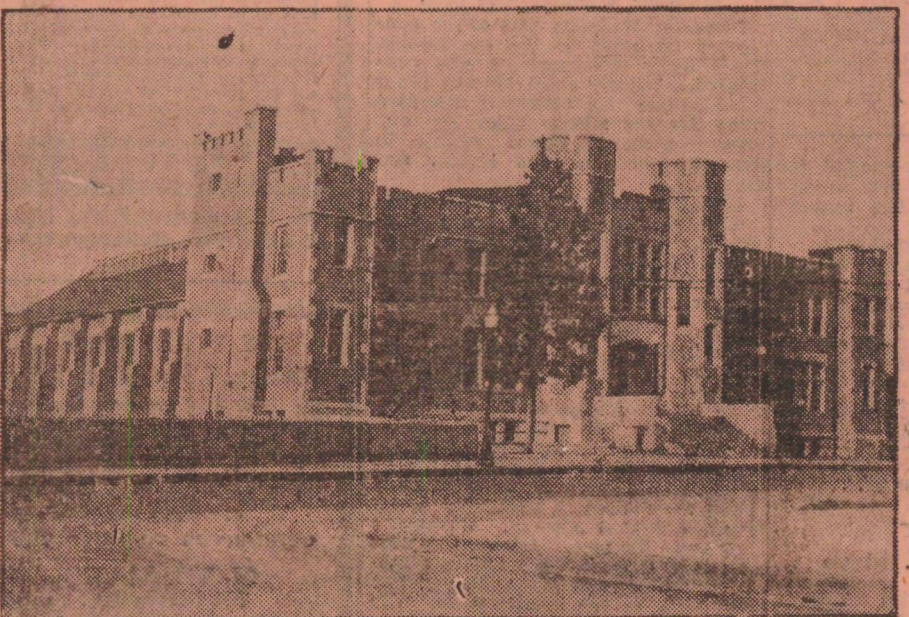
Dr. Brown, being the most militant and outspoken champion of the rights of citizens of Salisbury, knowledge of what he knew threw a meeting of leading citizens into a turmoil when his stand was interpreted by the mayor and chief of police Saturday morning, as defiance.

Sunday, found the physician apparently changed after a mysterious trip that kept him out all night.

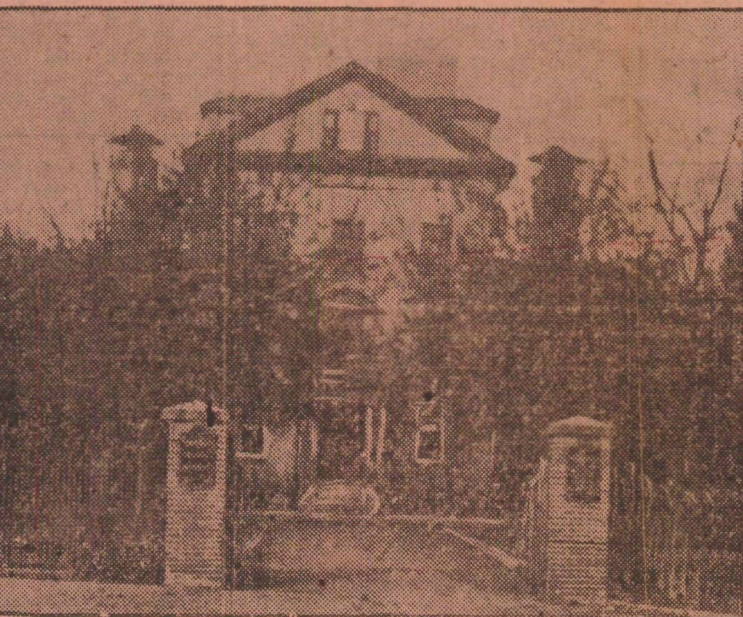
Dr. Brown was the physician who treated Williams, when he was first shot and carried him to the hospital. Dr. Brown is believed to have recognized mob leaders and it was thought that he would expose them even if it cost him his life. The militant bearing of the physician is said to have incurred the disapproval of the leading white citizens of the town, and threats were heard against him and his household. Reports are current that influential associates were dispatched to his home to pacify

Continued on Page 2, Col. 4

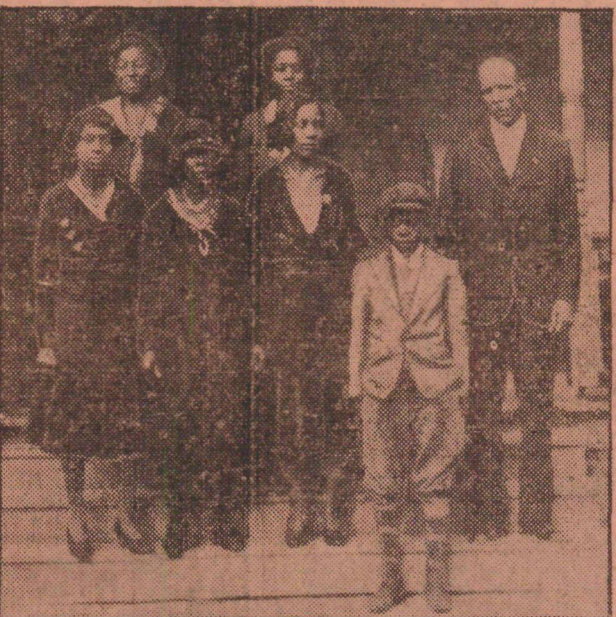
Grief-Stricken Family Mourns Death of Mob Victim who was Tossed from First Story Hospital Window



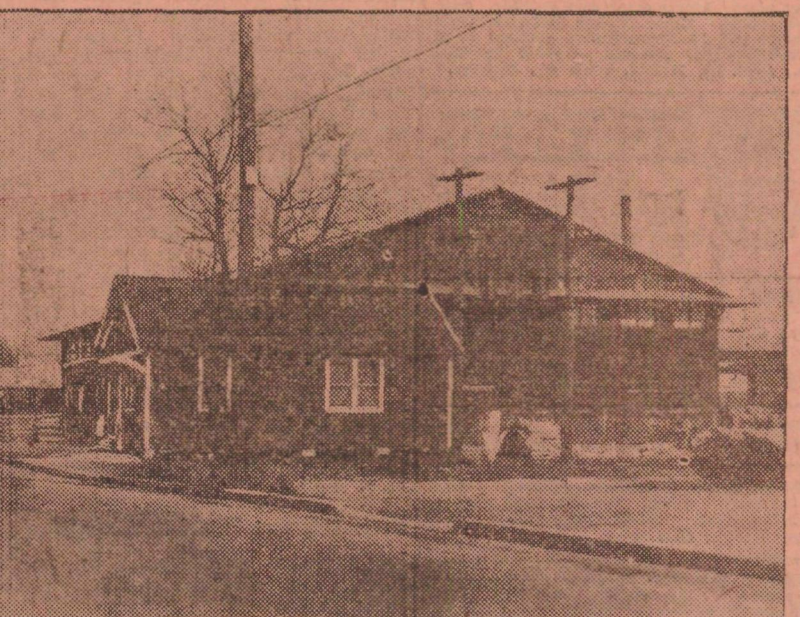
The white high school building in Salisbury, Maryland's lynch town, which indicates there is an effort to create intelligence on the Eastern Shore. The general level of intelligence among whites is extremely low.



The hospital from the first story of which Williams was thrown to the mob, seriously wounded and clad only in night shirt. His head was swathed in bandages and he was unconscious.



Relatives of Williams: Left to right, front row—Mrs. Olivia Simmons, sister; Mrs. Thomas Black, aunt; Miss Viola Black, Thomas Black, Jr., and Thomas Black, uncle; back row—Misses Netta Tatten and Ger aldine Fur, cousins.



Office where Williams was reported to have shot lumber merchant, and himself. According to reports, he staggered outside, where he was shot a second time by the son of the lumber merchant.

